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Illinois Springfield Home

As a State Museum

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

MR. EDWARDS APPOINTED.

Will Succeed Herman Hofferkamp as Custodian of the Lincoln Home.

The board of trustees of the Lincoln homestead, composed of the governor, secretary of state, auditor of public accounts, state treasurer and superintendent of public instruction, met in the governor's office at the state house yesterday, and appointed Albert S. Edwards of this city, custodian of the Lincoln home, to take effect July 1, to succeed Herman Hofferkamp, removed.

Mr. Edwards is the nephew of Abraham Lincoln. At the home of his father, the late Ninian Edwards, Abraham Lincoln was married. It was at this same home Mrs. Lincoln died. The board considered it fitting that the care and custody of this historic place be given in charge of a member of the Lincoln family. It is understood that it was the desire and wish of Robert T. Lincoln that his cousin, Mr. Edwards, should receive this appointment.

June 16 1897

Lincoln, Ill. Feb 13, 1909

LINCOLN'S OLD HOME

AND WHERE THE DISTINGUISHED
STATESMAN'S TOMB IS.

DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL

NOTED GUESTS VISIT LINCOLN'S
LAST RESTING PLACE.

City of Springfield Made Beautiful
With National Colors — List
of Eminent Speakers
in Attendance.

Nebraska State Journal - 1909

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Fe. 12.—Amid a scene of unrivalled brilliancy at the state armory tonight where thousands of electric lights shed their dazzling illumination upon a most artistic array of national colors, three nations paid their tribute to the emancipator and to each other. French Ambassador Jusserand brought the message from France, British Ambassador Bryce the eulogy of England, while William J. Bryan of Nebraska and United States Senator J. P. Dolliver of Iowa, laid America's wreath of respect at the feet of Lincoln.

This was a fitting climax for the remarkable all day celebration which took the distinguished guests mentioned above and two score others through the old Lincoln home, past the old court house where Lincoln practiced law; by the building where his office was located, to the old church where Lincoln worshipped and where his name yet appears upon the pew he occupied and to the burial place of the martyred president.

An impressive feature was the celebration at the Lincoln tomb, when Robert T. Lincoln, son of the martyred president, stood beside the sarcophagus in which the remains of his great father rest and stood with tear dimmed eyes in silent meditation with many other distinguished guests gathered about. At the base of the monument old soldiers who had responded to Lincoln's call to arms stood guard with fixed bayonets.

At the armory tonight 700 men sat at immaculate tables facing an elevated speaker's stand upon which was spread the table for the honored guests. A gay and glimmering array of fashion crowded the galleries.

As France Regarded Lincoln.

Judge J. Otis Humphrey presided and Rev. E. B. Rogers delivered the invocation. Ambassador Jusserand spoke on "Abraham Lincoln as France Regarded Him," in which he told of France's grief over Lincoln's death and her devotion to his greatness.

Ambassador Bryce's address was a message of love and respect, saying Lincoln belonged to a mighty race and grew great because he was endowed with intellect and character.

The addresses of Bryan and Dolliver at night were informal.

This afternoon 8,000 people crowded the big tabernacle.

The letter from Booker T. Washington, read at the banquet tonight, urged negroes to be law-abiding and adds that "every member of my race who

does not work, who leads an immoral life, dishonors the name and memory of Lincoln."

The negroes of Springfield, having been excluded from the Lincoln centennial banquet, held a competitive event tonight, tributes to Lincoln being delivered by Rev. James Cottman and Rev. L. H. Magee, the latter taking occasion to caustically criticize the banquet of the centennial association, saying:

"I would rather be one of the number of black devotees (of Lincoln) than toastmaster at a so-called Lincoln banquet at \$25 per. Oh, consistency, thou art a jewel! How can you play Hamlet without the melancholy Dane?"

Not to be outdone by the men, the ladies of Springfield gave an elaborate reception this afternoon at the old Lincoln homestead and tonight a brilliant banquet at the Y. M. C. A. building, under the auspices of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mrs. Donald McLean of New York, president of the society, Mrs. M. T. Scott of Bloomington, and Mrs. William J. Bryan were present.

Mr. Bryan's Address.

Lincoln's fame as a statesman and as the nation's chief executive in its most crucial period has so overshadowed his fame as an orator that his merits as a public speaker have not been sufficiently emphasized. When it is remembered that his nomination was directly due to the prominence which he won upon the stump; that in the most remarkable series of debates known to history he held his own against one of the most brilliant orators America has produced, and that to his speeches, more than to the arguments of any other one man, or in fact, of all other public men combined, was due the success of his party—when all these facts are borne in mind, it will appear plain, even to the casual observer, that too little attention has been given to the extraordinary power which he exercised as a speaker. That his nomination was due to the effect that his speeches produced, cannot be disputed. When he began his fight against slavery in 1858 he was but little known outside of the counties in which he attended court. It is true that he had been a member of congress some years before, but at that time he was not stirred by any great emotion or connected with the discussion of any important theme, and he made but little impression upon national politics. The threatened extension of slavery, however, aroused him, and with a cause which justified his best efforts, he threw his whole soul into the fight. The debates with Douglas have never had a parallel in this, or, so far as history shows, in any other country.

In engaging in this contest with Douglas he met a foe worthy of his steel, for Douglas had gained a deserved reputation as a great debater, and recognized that his future depended upon the success with which he met the attacks of Lincoln. On one side an institution supported by history and tradition and on the other a growing sentiment against the holding of a human being in bondage—these presented a supreme issue. Douglas won the senatorial seat for which the two at that time had contested, but Lincoln won a larger victory—he helped to mould the sentiment that was dividing parties and re-arranging the political map of the country. When the debates were concluded every one recognized him as the leader of the cause which he had espoused, and it was a recognition of this leadership which he had secured through his public speeches that enabled him, a western man, to be nominated over the eastern candidates—not only a western

man, but a man lacking in book learning and the polish of the schools. No other American president has ever so clearly owed his elevation to his oratory. Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln and Jackson, the presidents usually mentioned in connection with him, were all poor speakers.

Lincoln Wonderfully Equipped.

In analyzing Lincoln's characteristics as a speaker, one is impressed with the completeness of his equipment. He possessed the two things that are absolutely essential to effective speaking—namely, information and earnestness. If one can be called eloquent who knows what he is talking about and means what he says—and I know of no better definition—Lincoln's speeches were eloquent. He was thoroughly informed upon the subject; he was prepared to meet his opponent upon the general proposition discussed, or upon any deductions which could be drawn from it. There was no unexplored field into which his adversary could lead him, he had carefully examined every foot of the ground and was not afraid of pitfall or ambush, and, what was equally important, he spoke from his own heart to the hearts of those who listened. While the printed page can not fully reproduce the impressions made by a voice trembling with emotion or tender with pathos, one can not read the reports of the debates without feeling that Lincoln regarded the subject as far transcending the ambitions or the personal interests of the debaters. It was of little moment, he said, whether they voted him or Judge Douglas up or down, but it was tremendously important that the question should be decided rightly. His reputation may have suffered in the opinion of some, because he made them think so deeply upon what he said that they, for the moment, forgot him altogether, and yet, is this not the very perfection of speech? It is the purpose of the orator to persuade and, to do this, he presents, not himself but his subject. Someone is describing the difference between Demosthenes and Cicero said that "when Cicero spoke people said, how well Cicero speaks, but when Demosthenes spoke, they said, let us go against Philip." In proportion as one can forget himself and become wholly absorbed in the cause which he is presenting does he measure up to the requirements of oratory.

In addition to the two essentials, the secondary aids to oratory. He was a master of statement. Few have equalled him in the ability to strip a truth of surplus verbiage and present it in its naked strength. In the Declaration of Independence we read that there are certain self-evident truths, which are therein enumerated. If I would say that all truth is self-evident. Not that any truth will be universally accepted, for not all are in a position or in an attitude to accept any given truth. In the interpretation of the parable of the sower, we are told that "the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the truth," and it must be acknowledged that every truth has these or other difficulties to contend with. But a truth may be so clearly stated that it will commend itself to anyone who has not some special reason for rejecting it.

No one has more clearly stated the fundamental objections to slavery than Lincoln stated them, and he had a great advantage over his opponent in being able to state those objections frankly, for Judge Douglas neither denounced nor defended slavery as an institution—his man embodied a com-

promise and he could not discuss slavery upon its merits without alienating either the slave-owner or the abolitionist.

Brevity is the soul of wit, and a part of Lincoln's reputation for wit lies in his ability to condense a great deal into a few words. He was epigrammatic. A moulder of thought is not necessarily an originator of the thought moulded. Just as lead moulded into the form of bullets has its effectiveness increased, so thought may have its propagating power enormously increased by being moulded into a form that the eye catches and the memory holds. Lincoln gave expression to the thought of his followers and gave that thought felicitous expression.

Praises Gettysburg Speech.

His Gettysburg speech is not surpassed, if equalled, in beauty, simplicity, force and appropriateness by any speech of the same length of any language. It is the world's model in eloquence, elegance and condensation. He might safely rest his reputation as an orator on that speech alone.

He was apt in illustration—no one more so. A simple story or simile drawn from everyday life flashed before his hearers the argument that he wanted to present. He did not speak over the heads of his hearers, and yet his language was never commonplace. There is strength in simplicity itself.

He understood the power of the interrogatory, for some of his most powerful arguments were condensed into questions. Of all those who discussed the evils of separation and the advantage to be derived from the preservation of the union, no one ever put the matter more forcibly than Lincoln did when referring to the possibility of war and the certainty of peace some time, even if the union was divided, he called attention to the fact that the same question would have to be dealt with, and then asked, "Can enemies make treaties easier than friends can make laws?"

He made frequent use of bible language and of illustrations drawn from holy writ. It is said that when he was preparing his Springfield speech in 1858 he spent hours trying to find language that would express the idea that dominated his entire career, namely, that a republic could not permanently endure half free and half slave, and that finally a bible passage flashed through his mind, and he exclaimed, I have found it—"A house divided against itself can not stand," and probably no other bible passage ever exerted as much influence as this one in the settlement of a great controversy.

I have enumerated some, not all—but the more important—of his characteristics as an orator, and on this day I venture for the moment to turn the thoughts of this audience away from the great work that he accomplished as a patriot, away from his achievements in the line of statecraft, to the means employed by him to bring before the public the ideas which attracted attention to him. His power as a public speaker was the foundation of his success, and while it is obscured by the superstructure that was reared upon it, it can not be entirely overlooked as the returning anniversary of his birth calls increasing lie, his elevation to the presidency would have been impossible without his oratory. The eloquence of Demosthenes and Cicero were no more necessary to their work and Lincoln deserves to have his name written on the scroll with theirs.

Wood From Lincoln Home To Be Given As Souvenirs By Action Of Governor

Abraham Lincoln was a rail splitter of the thirties, and Herbert Wells Fay, who tells the story of Lincoln's life and death at the monument, will become a 1921 rail splitter.

Governor Small had sent to the monument yesterday a truck load of raw material upon which the custodian will practice. The wood is from the Lincoln home just as it was when Lincoln occupied it and where he lived before going to Washington to be inaugurated.

Some years ago it was found necessary to do some extension repairing on the homestead and the discarded hewed sills 8x8 and 10 feet long, siding, pillars, studding casings, stairs, etc., were stored in the lower archives of the capitol.

To Give Wood Away.

The wood was doing no one any good, became a fire risk, and has been awaiting the advent of a Lincoln enthusiast to work it into suitable pieces to present to the lovers of Lincoln, especially those having collections, and who are in some way spreading the fame of this illustrious son of Illinois.

None of the pieces will be sold, but sticks for canes, inkstands, frames, pen holders and all sorts of uses will be supplied free or in ex-

change for articles relative to Lincoln.

Small Gets Bid In.

Schools, libraries, state, district and county officials and Lincoln lovers wishing something from Lincoln's Springfield home, should file specifications with the custodian.

Governor Small and George D. Sutton, his secretary, were first to file applications for Lincoln wood for cones.

SHRINE WILL BE PRESERVED

Governor Signs Bohrer Bill for State Control of Lincoln Home.

A bill introduced in the Illinois legislature by State Senator Florence Fifer Bohrer of Bloomington which will preserve for posterity the home of Abraham Lincoln at Springfield, shrine of millions of Americans, and the priceless furnishings, draperies and mementos therein, was signed this week by Gov. Louis L. Emmerson.

"None of the furniture, draperies, trimmings and other personal effects of Lincoln now in the home is owned by the state," Mrs. Bohrer said in discussing the measure Friday. "All are loaned" she continued, "by descendants of Lincoln or by members of old families who were intimate with Lincoln and his family. The personal belongings of Mr. Lincoln are priceless to the present generation and will be even more so to future generations and the new measure was introduced for the purpose of 'putting the house in order,' she said.

Organized in 1909.

Logan Hay of Springfield is president of the Lincoln Memorial association. He is a son of Milton Hay, at one time the law partner of Mr. Lincoln. He has devoted the greater portion of his life to the interests of the association, Mrs. Bohrer says. Each year the association brings men of prominence from all parts of the country for the anniversary celebration at Springfield, who speak from the spot in the Sangamon county court house where Lincoln lay in state.

The Memorial association was organized on the occasion of the one hundredth birthday anniversary of Mr. Lincoln in 1909. The association, Mrs. Bohrer says, employs a full time research man who investigates all facts and matters pertaining to Lincoln and his life, and no historical data is accepted until a thorough investigation has been made and it is found to be genuine.

Many Visit Home

With the co-operation of the Memorial association and the state, specifications of the home and all of its appointments have been drawn, Mrs. Bohrer says, so that in the case of destruction, or partial destruction by fire, tornadoes or other agencies, it can be replaced.

All of the furnishings of the home are "loaned" and their genuineness is supported by affidavits of old families, who own them. These persons have agreed to sell the furnishings of the home to the

state for a nominal sum. There is now in the department of public buildings of the state, Mrs. Bohrer says, a sum appropriated for the support of the Lincoln home which is available. It is provided that the owners of the Lincoln furnishings and mementos are to be given authority to advise with the state relative to the property, and that the Memorial association shall recommend the custodian of the home.

"Between 450 and 500 persons visit the Lincoln home and tomb each day, according to the average attendance shown by the records at 'Springfield,' Mrs. Bohrer said. "There are priceless mementos there that should and must be preserved for posterity. Collectors from all parts of America are seeking these and it is important that they shall be protected. That is the purpose of the new measure and the thought of thousands of Lincoln's admirers in this and other states."

Mrs. Bohrer says that in scraping off a section of paper from the walls of the home the original wall paper was found. This will be duplicated, as will also the carpet which originally covered the floors. All the appointments of the home will duplicate, as nearly as possible, the original settings in the home, she says.

BLOOMINGTON ILL PANTAGRAPH
SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1929

ASK PROTECTION FOR LINCOLN HOMESTEAD IN SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

1921

(By The Associated Press.)

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., March 19.—Protection of the only home Abraham Lincoln ever owned, the Lincoln homestead in Springfield, and condemnation of an entire block of ground about it for use as a state park, is the object of a bill soon to be introduced in the legislature. The measure is now under consideration by Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, secretary of the State Historical society, and Col. C. R. Miller, director of the state department of public works and buildings.

"A disgrace from which Illinois would hardly recover is constantly threatened the Lincoln homestead by the frame buildings near it," according to Mrs. Weber. "Fire may come at any time and take from us this rich and irreplaceable Lincoln relic. One frame house on the north is so close to the homestead that persons may shake hands from the opposite windows."

Immediate measures for fire protection are imperative, Mrs. Weber said. Development of the state park is not so urgent. Beside removing the houses which constitute a fire menace, removal of the present wooden shingles and putting a fireproof roof on the homestead is immediately necessary, she declared.

The danger to the Lincoln home is nothing new, Mrs. Weber said. Visitors continually express their astonishment, she remarked, at the fact that Illinois has not exercised better judgment in protecting this chief of Lincoln memory spots. Size of an appropriation necessary for fire protection and creation of a Lincoln homestead state park, has not been decided. Historical societies in various cities have already approved the proposal, Mrs. Weber said.

Lincoln Home to Be Redecorated

The home of Abraham Lincoln will be redecorated this year and several minor improvements needed to preserve the historic structure will be made, according to announcement made by Harry Cleave-

land of the state department of public works and buildings. Bids for the work will be asked soon and estimates probably will include the installation of a drinking fountain on the ground adjoining the home.

Thousands of persons visit the home of Lincoln annually and all necessary decorations and improvements to preserve the building sacred to the memory of the martyred president are to be made.

LINCOLN HOUSE IS A MEMORIAL

Only Residence Owned By Civil
War President Maintained
By Illinois as Museum.

The Lincoln homestead, the only residence ever owned by Abraham Lincoln, and which was occupied by him at the time of his nomination and election to the presidency, is situated at the northeast corner of Eighth and Jackson Streets, Springfield, Ill. The property was conveyed to the State of Illinois in 1887 by Robert Todd Lincoln, son of President Lincoln, and is maintained as a Lincoln museum, under control of the State Department of Public Works and Buildings. The two-storyed frame dwelling of 12 rooms was built in 1839 and purchased by Mr. Lincoln in 1844 for \$1,500; with his family he occupied the house until 1861. Framework and floors are all of oak, the laths of handsplit hickory, and the doors, door frames, window frames, and weather boarding of black walnut; hand-made nails are sparingly used, the lack eked out with wooden pegs. Various tenants succeeded Mr. Lincoln as occupants; he sold the furnishings but retained title. In 1883 O. H. Oldroyd, now of Washington, D. C., leased the property and installed a collection of Lincolnia. He became custodian when the building was taken over by the State in 1887; when superceded in 1893, Mr. Oldroyd removed his collection to Washington, where it was installed in the house in which Mr. Lincoln died.

VISITORS FROM EIGHT

STATES SEE HOMESTEAD

Spencer Sun 8-25-34

A total of thirty-three visitors, representing eight States, registered at Lincoln Homestead during the week of August 12-19. Tourists from New York, Texas, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Michigan, Louisiana, and Illinois are included in the registration. Many unregistered visitors to the park are also reported for the seven-day period. Park officials believe that if funds were available for the employment of a full-time caretaker, the number of registrants, each of whom would pay ten cents, would be greatly multiplied.

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1/10/19 - 7:18 - 12 - 17

Lincoln's Home Doorplate To Be Replaced Today

Governor, Legion Head
Daniel Doherty To Talk
At Ceremony.

One of the interesting programs today to mark the birthday anniversary of Abraham Lincoln will be placing the original doorplate at the Lincoln home, Eighth and Jackson streets, by Governor Horner.

The ceremony will begin at 4 p. m. Daniel J. Doherty, national American Legion commander, and Governor Horner will be the principal speakers. The streets will be roped off to keep traffic from interfering with the attendance. A detachment of the 160th cavalry will form an honor guard.

Tunes familiar to Union soldiers of the Civil war will open the program with the Springfield Municipal band playing the war music. Governor Horner and Commander Doherty will speak from 4:15 to 4:30 p. m., during which time the replacing the doorplate will be held.

The Lincoln Liberty chorus, directed by O. Jerome Singleton, will sing a number of Civil war songs. The Springfield Municipal band will close the ceremonies with a short concert.

The original doorplate, which had been missing for years, recently was returned to the state by an anonymous donor. The marker is a black plate, on which is inscribed in silvered Roman characters the name, "A. Lincoln."

This doorplate, Governor Horner said, adds one more touch of authenticity to the restored home of Lincoln in this city which is visited annually by thousands of persons.

Restoring A Doorplate.

Restoration of a doorplate to the Abraham Lincoln Home in this city will be an incident of Saturday's observance of the Lincoln birthday anniversary. The doorplate, which was removed after Mr. Lincoln's election to the presidency, was not destroyed.

The donor of the missing plate prefers to be anonymous, but the gracious act deserves commendation and the thanks of the public. The plate was, no doubt, prized as a souvenir by whosoever was in possession of it. As one of the items in the restoration of the old residence it is of historical significance to all who visit the residence.

Much could be done to enhance the value of historical shrines if owners of relics originally associated with restored buildings would furnish them for preservation with such structures. A doorplate may not be important of itself, but it makes more complete the picture we want to recall.

It would be difficult to overestimate the worth of the old articles which are housed in such restorations as that at Old Salem. Remarkable as are the buildings, they would not invite prolonged inspection if it were not for the ancient furnishings and what they tell of the people who once occupied the humble quarters.

See page Feb 12 - 38

Hold Ceremony To Replace Doorplate At Lincoln Home

Governor Horner Speaks; Distinguished Guests Introduced.

At a brief but impressive ceremony yesterday afternoon at Lincoln's home, Eighth and Jackson streets, Governor Horner replaced the original doorplate bearing the name "A. Lincoln."

The plate was given to the state by Jesse Jay Ricks, president of the Union Carbide & Carbon corporation, New York. Ricks, son of a former Illinois supreme court justice, is a native of Illinois. The plate was on the door at the time Lincoln used the place as his home.

In a short address the governor carried the auditors back ninety years as he described the events which took place at the home.

"One day in May, 1860," the governor said, "anyone along this street might have seen the tall, gaunt figure of Lincoln walking more rapidly than was his wont toward this house. He had just received word he had been nominated for the presidency, and he was hurrying to break the news to his wife."

"That night," the governor continued, "a crowd gathered here where we stand today. Shouts for 'Mr. Lincoln' rang out and soon his tall form was silhouetted in the doorway. When the resounding cheers died away he invited in as many as the house would hold. Someone called out: 'We'll give you a large house on the fourth of next March!' and the crowd laughed and cheered again."

"No structure in the United States was the center of more attention than this modest frame house here at the corner of Eighth and Jackson streets in Springfield, Ill."

"Today it is our privilege to celebrate rare good fortune, and also to acknowledge a splendid instance of civic generosity. Recently this doorplate has come to the state of Illinois as a gift."

"It was acquired by a native son of Illinois and by him donated, with other very valuable Lincoln mementoes and documents of priceless historical importance, to the state of his birth. To this splendid gentleman, Jesse Jay Ricks, a native of

Taylorville, son of one of the state's greatest jurists, himself a distinguished lawyer and president of one of the country's great industrial corporations, we express our very earnest thanks."

When the governor finished speaking, he introduced Daniel Doherty, Boston, national commander of the American Legion, who called for a "return to the principles of Lincoln and those of our forebears."

Governor Horner also introduced Isaac R. Diller of this city, who played in the neighborhood of Lincoln's home as a boy, and William N. Hodge of Decatur, former G.A.R. department commander. Both knew Lincoln and spoke briefly about him.

Springfield Municipal band added color to the ceremony with a number of stirring patriotic tunes familiar during the days of the Civil war. The Lincoln Liberty chorus, directed by O. Jerome Singleton, sang a number of songs of Lincoln's time.

A detachment of guardsmen from machine gun troop, 106th Cavalry, commanded by Lieut. Charles R. Bean, formed a guard of honor at the home during the ceremonies.

The entire program was broadcast over WCBS, the Illinois State Journal station. It was the first time in history that a radio broadcast was made from Lincoln's home.

Missing Doorplate Placed On Door of Lincoln Home During Special Ceremonies

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 12.—(A. P.)—In silvered Roman characters on a black background, the name "A. Lincoln" once again adorns the modest frame dwelling that was the only home the railsplitter-lawyer-President ever owned. During a ceremony in which the original doorplate—missing several decades—was attached to the door frame, Gov. Henry Horner disclosed the donor was Jesse Jay Ricks, former Taylorville, Ill., schoolboy who became president of the Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation.

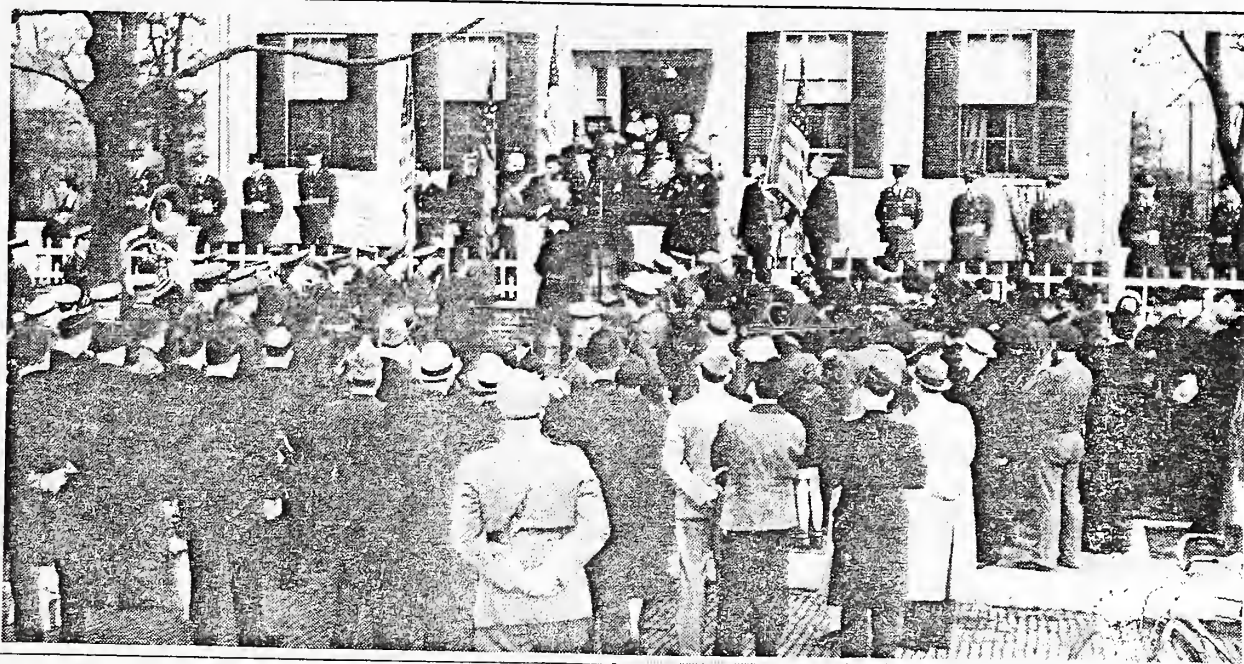
With the doorplate, Lincoln's home has been restored virtually to the condition it was in on that historic day of his first nomination in May, 1860.

Memorial services at Lincoln's tomb, during which wreaths were placed in behalf of President Roosevelt and the American Legion, highlighted the two-day observance of the Emancipator's 129th birthday anniversary.

National Commander Daniel J. Doherty of the Legion, who led a pilgrimage to the shrine, called for a "return to the principles of Lincoln and those of our forebearers."

Original Doorplate Replaced At Home Of Lincoln

Large Attendance Sees Governor Horner Restore Historic Marker At Impressive Memorial Ceremonies.





—State Journal Photos.

Part of the assemblage which gathered at the Lincoln home, Eighth and Jackson streets, yesterday afternoon to see Governor Horner place the original doorplate on the front door to the home, is shown in the top picture. Members of Machine Gun troop, 106th cavalry, are shown surrounding the home as a guard of honor. Governor Horner and Daniel Doherty, national American Legion commander, and Mayor Kapp are on the steps of the home. In the lower picture Governor Horner is shown putting the doorplate in position. On the right is Mayor Kapp. Standing behind the governor is William N. Hodge, Decatur, former G.A.R. department commander. (Story on Page 6, Part 1.)

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Liberty In America Is Under Attack, Legion Head Declares

National Commander Doherty Urges Steadfastness To Lincoln Ideals; Colorful Parade Held.

Marked by an address by National Commander Daniel J. Doherty, the fourth annual American Legion pilgrimage to the tomb of Abraham Lincoln, Saturday, observed the 129th anniversary of the birth of the martyred Civil war president. A colorful street parade by patriotic and

military organizations, civic groups, and state and city officials preceded the memorial services at the Lincoln monument, in Oak Ridge cemetery.

Tidal waves of un-American beliefs and doctrines threaten the nation, the national commander of the Legion declared in his address, in which he lauded Lincoln and the principles for which he died. He urged Americans to observe the qualities of discipline, courage, and loftiness of purpose.

Such qualities, he asserted are "essential for preserving the free government passed on to us by Lincoln, a government conceived in liberty and founded upon the principle of equality for all men."

National Commander Doherty stated "these basic principles are

(Turn to Page 4 Column 3)



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LINCOLN DOORPLATE AFFIXED—Governor Horner of Illinois, center, spoke at memorial services for Abraham Lincoln Saturday, the Great Emancipator's 129th birthday anniversary, on the porch of the Lincoln homestead at Springfield, Ill. Later, Governor Horner affixed a doorplate bearing the name "A. Lincoln" to the doorframe. (Associated Press Photo.)

Lincoln Doorplate Restored

Ceremony Held
at Old Home in
Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 12 (AP)—
In silvered Roman characters on a
black background, the name "A.
Lincoln" once again adorns the
modest frame dwelling that was the
only home the railsplitter-lawyer-
President ever owned.

During a ceremony today, in
which the original doorplate—miss-
ing several decades—was attached

F. R. PAYS HOMAGE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12 (AP)
—President Roosevelt visited
Lincoln Memorial today and
stood bareheaded while Colonel
Edwin N. Watson, his military
aid, placed a wreath.

to the door frame, Governor Henry
Horner disclosed the donor was
Jesse Jay Ricks, former Taylorville,
Ill., schoolboy who became president
of the Union Carbide and Carbon
Corporation.

THANKS EXPRESSED

"His public spirited generosity as-
sures him the enduring gratitude of
the people of Illinois and admirers
of Lincoln everywhere for its restor-
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Governor said.

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MEMORIAL SERVICES

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He urged "eternal vigilance" and
declared that "slave philosophies" of
foreign dictators were "infiltrating
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RESTORE DOORPLATE TO HOME OF LINCOLN

Memorial Services Held at Springfield, Ill.

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Memorial services at Lincoln's tomb, during which wreaths were placed in behalf of President Roosevelt and the American Legion, highlighted the two-day observance of the Emancipator's 129th birthday anniversary.

National Commander Daniel J. Doherty of the Legion, who led a pilgrimage to the shrine, called for a "return to the principles of Lincoln and those of our forebears."

He urged "eternal vigilance" and declared that "slave philosophies" of foreign dictators were "infiltrating our nation, finding ready soil in ignorance and indifference."

LINCOLN'S DOORPLATE IS RESTORED TO HOME

Silvered Sign, Missing Several
Decades, Restored in Spring-
field Ceremony.

By the Associated Press.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 12.—In silvered roman characters on a black background, the name "A. Lincoln" once again adorns the modest frame dwelling that was the only home the rail splitter-lawyer-President ever owned.

During a ceremony in which the original doorplate—missing several decades—was attached to the door frame Gov. Henry Horner disclosed the donor was Jesse Jay Ricks, former Taylorville, Ill., schoolboy, who became president of the Union Carbide & Carbon Corp.

With the doorplate, Lincoln's home has been restored virtually to the condition it was in on that historic day of his first nomination in May, 1860, when friends swarmed there and overflowed to the lawn, shouting for "Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Lincoln."

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Original Doorplate Replaced At Home Of Lincoln ^{2/15} 1938

Large Attendance Sees Governor Horner Restore Historic Marker At Impressive Ceremonies.



Restoring A Doorplate.

Restoration of a doorplate to the Abraham Lincoln Home in this city will be an incident of Saturday's observance of the Lincoln birthday anniversary. The doorplate, which was removed after Mr. Lincoln's election to the presidency, was not destroyed.

The donor of the missing plate prefers to be anonymous, but the gracious act deserves commendation and the thanks of the public. The plate was, no doubt, prized as a souvenir by whosoever was in possession of it. As one of the items in the restoration of the old residence it is of historical significance to all who visit the residence.

Much could be done to enhance the value of historical shrines if owners of relics originally associated with restored buildings would furnish them for preservation with such structures. A doorplate may not be important of itself, but it makes more complete the picture we want to recall.

It would be difficult to overestimate the worth of the old articles which are housed in such restorations as that at Old Salem. Remarkable as are the buildings, they would not invite prolonged inspection if it were not for the ancient furnishings and what they tell of the people who once occupied the humble quarters.



— State Journal Photos.

Part of the assemblage which gathered at the Lincoln home, Eighth and Jackson streets, yesterday afternoon to see Governor Horner place the original doorplate on the front door to the home, is shown in the top picture. Members of Machine Gun troop, 106th cavalry, are shown surrounding the home as a guard of honor. Governor Horner and Daniel Doherty, national American Legion commander, and Mayor Kapp are on the steps of the home. In the lower picture Governor Horner is shown putting the doorplate in position. On the right standing behind the governor is William N. Hodges, Mayor Kapp. Standing behind the governor is William N. Hodges, Decatur, former G.A.R. department commander. (Story on Page Part 1.)

THE MORTON NEWS, MORTON. ILLINOIS

Feb. 17, 1938

STATE CAPITOL NEWS



by Hiram L. Williamson
SECRETARY
Illinois Press Association



The original doorplate which marked the front entrance to Abraham Lincoln's Springfield home during the years he lived there, taken away years ago by persons unknown, was restored to its place on Saturday, Feb. 12 by Governor Horner, in the presence of an interested group of citizens. The marker, "a black doorplate, on which in silvered Roman characters is inscribed the magical name, 'A. Lincoln,' adds one more accurate touch to the Home that is one of the chief historical shrines of Illinois.

An original portrait of Abraham Lincoln by William Cogswell, and a printed copy of the Proclamation of Emancipation, signed by Lincoln and Secretary of State William H. Seward, has just been presented to the State Historical Library by a donor who prefers to remain anonymous. The portrait is said to have high artistic merit and considerable financial value. The signed proclamation is one of only two or three of the kind extant.

Q. When and how did the State
acquire title to the Lincoln Home in
Springfield?

A. The Lincoln Home was pre-
sented to the State by Robert Todd
Lincoln in 1887.

Copy 142

THE HOME OF

ABRAHAM LINCOLN



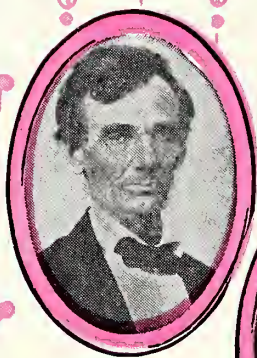
Crowds of well-wishers were greeted at his doorway
by Abraham Lincoln during the 1860 campaign.

A MEMORIAL MAINTAINED

by the

STATE OF ILLINOIS

Open Every Day of the Year Except Thanksgiving,
Christmas and New Years from 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Abraham Lincoln
1809 - 1865



Mary Todd Lincoln
1818 - 1882



ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S HOME

Abraham Lincoln's home on the northeast corner of Eighth and Jackson streets is the shrine most intimately associated with his life in Springfield. It is the only home he ever owned and to it he brought his wife and infant son, Robert Todd, after the first two years of their married life had been spent at boarding houses and at the Globe Tavern, where board and room were \$4.00 a week.

Abraham Lincoln purchased the house and lot for \$1,500 on May 2, 1844 from the Rev. Charles Dresser, the Episcopal rector who had married him and Mary Todd on Nov. 4, 1842. The house is the original structure, standing on the same location as when the Lincolns lived in it. However, the Lincolns did make some changes while they lived here. Originally it was a cottage of one and one-half stories, built in 1839 on a lot 50 x 152 feet. The wall and fence at the front were built in 1850. Lincoln wrote to Nathaniel Hay, local brick maker on June 11, and ordered "brick of suitable quality and sufficient number . . . to build a front fence on a brick foundation."

Five years later a similar fence was continued about one-fourth the length of the lot on Jackson Street with a high board fence running to the carriage house. Mrs. Lincoln in 1856, at a cost of \$1,300, had the house

made a full two stories. The front staircase was a part of the 1839 structure and led to the two half-story upstairs rooms.

The house is made of native hard woods: the framework and the floors are oak; the laths are hand-split hickory; the doors, door frames, and weatherboarding are black walnut. The original shingles were hand-split walnut. The construction was with wooden pegs plus a sparing use of handmade nails.

The Lincolns made this their home from May, 1844 to February, 1861, except for the first part of Lincoln's term in Congress, when it was rented to Cornelius Ludlum for \$90 for a year beginning Nov. 1, 1847. Mrs. Lincoln and the two little boys, Robert and Edward, spent part of the time in Washington with Mr. Lincoln and the remainder at her father's home in Lexington, Kentucky. Three of the Lincolns' sons were born in this house, Edward Baker, "Eddie" (1846-1850), William Wallace, "Willie" (1850-1862) and Thomas, "Tad" (1853-1871), and "Eddie" died here.

Lincoln retained ownership and rented the house to Lucian Tilton, head of the Great Western railroad (now the Wabash) for \$350 a year. The Tiltons continued to live in the house after Lincoln's assassination until they moved to Chicago in 1869. From then until 1880 the house was occupied by George H. Harlow, who was private secretary to Gov. Richard J. Oglesby, city editor of the *Illinois State Journal*, and Secretary of State for two terms. For the next three years Dr. Gustav Wendlandt, physician and later editor of a German-language newspaper, lived here.

Leslie's Weekly 1861 picture of parlor





Robert Todd Lincoln
1843 - 1926



Thomas "Tad" Lincoln
1853 - 1871



William "Willie"
Wallace Lincoln
1850 - 1862

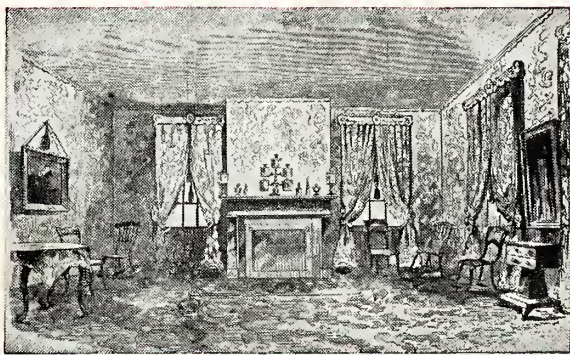
In 1883 Osborn H. Oldroyd rented the home and made it a museum for his extensive collection of Civil War relics and Lincoln mementoes. Oldroyd was instrumental in persuading Robert Todd Lincoln to give the property to the State of Illinois and this was done in a deed recorded July 29, 1887. Oldroyd was then named the first custodian, a position he held until 1893 when he moved his collection to Washington, D. C. and later sold it to the federal government.

When the Lincolns went to Washington in 1861 they held a public sale of their household furnishings, some of which were bought by the Tiltens who had rented the house. This furniture was taken to Chicago by the Tiltens in 1869 and was lost in the Great Fire of 1871, while the rest of the Lincolns' household goods were eventually dispersed into the hands of private Lincoln collectors and museums. During the past several decades much of the original furniture has been gradually returned to the Home and this has been used as a nucleus in restoring the house as nearly as possible to its appearance while the Lincolns lived there. The State of Illinois has been assisted in its restoration work by the Abraham Lincoln Association of Springfield and the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Illinois. In 1952 the house was

painted Quaker brown, which historical research had shown was the color of the home when Lincoln lived there. An extensive program of restoration has resulted in the entire second floor and kitchen being opened to the public.

It was in the north parlors of the home on May 19, 1860 that Lincoln received the committee appointed to notify him formally of his nomination for the presidency. After this ceremony members of the committee were conducted to the sitting room where they were introduced to Mrs. Lincoln. There was no formal ceremony after the election, but from then until the Lincolns left for Washington the house was filled many hours of the day and night with well-wishers and office seekers.

On the last day that the Lincolns occupied the home they held a grand public levee. The hours were from 7 p.m. to midnight and the St. Louis, Missouri Democrat thus described the affair: "The house was thronged by thousands, a grand outpouring of citizens and



Leslie's Weekly 1861 picture of sitting room

strangers. Mr. Lincoln received the people as they entered, then they passed on and were introduced to Mrs. Lincoln near the center of the parlor. She was dressed plainly but richly with beautiful full train, white moire, antique silk, a small French lace collar, her neck ornamented with a string of pearls. Her head dress was a simple and delicate vine arranged with much taste, but little jewelry and this was well and properly adjusted. She was a lady of fine figure and accomplished address and is well calculated to grace and do honors at the White House."

LINCOLN'S FAREWELL TO SPRINGFIELD, FEBRUARY 11, 1861

The Illinois State Journal of February 12, 1861, reported "despite bad weather . . . hundreds of his fellow citizens, without distinction of party had assembled . . . to bid him God-speed." After silently shaking hands with many of his well-wishers, the President-elect and party boarded the train. Shortly before eight o'clock, "On the platform of the rear car Lincoln bared his head to the rain, faced his friends, and stood silently struggling with his feelings . . . then slowly, solemnly spoke . . ."

My Friends—

No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feelings of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, and a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being, who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him, who can go with me, and remain with you and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

The original draft of the above version is in the Robert Todd Lincoln Collection of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, now in the Library of Congress. The Springfield Illinois State Journal version is on a plaque in the Lincoln Tomb. After the train pulled away Lincoln wrote down a few sentences of his Farewell and it was then completed by John G. Nicolay, his private secretary.

Write to the Division of Parks and Memorials, State Office Building, Springfield, for further information concerning Illinois Parks and Memorials.

Seventy-three State Parks and Memorials are of easy access from every part of the State. Lodges and cabins are an important feature of Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest, and Giant City State Parks. Reservations should be made with lodge managers.

Issued by
STATE OF ILLINOIS
William G. Stratton, Governor
Department of Conservation
Glen D. Palmer, Director
Division of Parks and Memorials
William R. Allen, Superintendent

Springfield's Lincoln House Will Be Brown

Special to The SUN-TIMES

SPRINGFIELD—The house that Lincoln lived in will be painted "Quaker brown" and that's final.

This momentous decision was reached by Gov. Stevenson's Lincoln Advisory Committee, some of whom held out at length for a white paint job with green trim.

The controversy started when Lincoln's Springfield home was closed to make it "authentic in every detail."

CONFLICTING CLAIMS

Historians pointed out that this would mean the color of the two-story house must be changed from white to brown.

Other scholars made counter-claims that the home was white when Lincoln lived there. And there were those who weren't scholars at all that insisted that whether Lincoln would have liked it or not, white was prettier.

Ray Hubbs, state parks director, summoned the advisory board.

The members assembled solemnly on the narrow lawn in front of the house.

In the group were Harry Pratt, state historian; George Bunn, Springfield banker, and Mrs. William R. Bacon of Winnetka, all members of the board; Richard Hagan, archaeologist, who favored brown; Miss Virginia Stuart Brown, the home custodian and outspoken for white; and C. F. Pope, state head of design, a nervous neutra.

I'VE SCRAPED THIS

Hagan produced a small piece of board.

"Now I've scraped this--"

Miss Brown interrupted to wave another piece of wood.

"Your board was put on after the 1850's. Here's an original walnut board."

Hagan was quick to point out that her board had no white paint on it.

"But we know it was white part of the time Lincoln lived here," she said.

"The only proof of white paint is from people born after 1890 who talked to people born before 1890," said Hagan stubbornly.

NOW FOR WALLPAPER

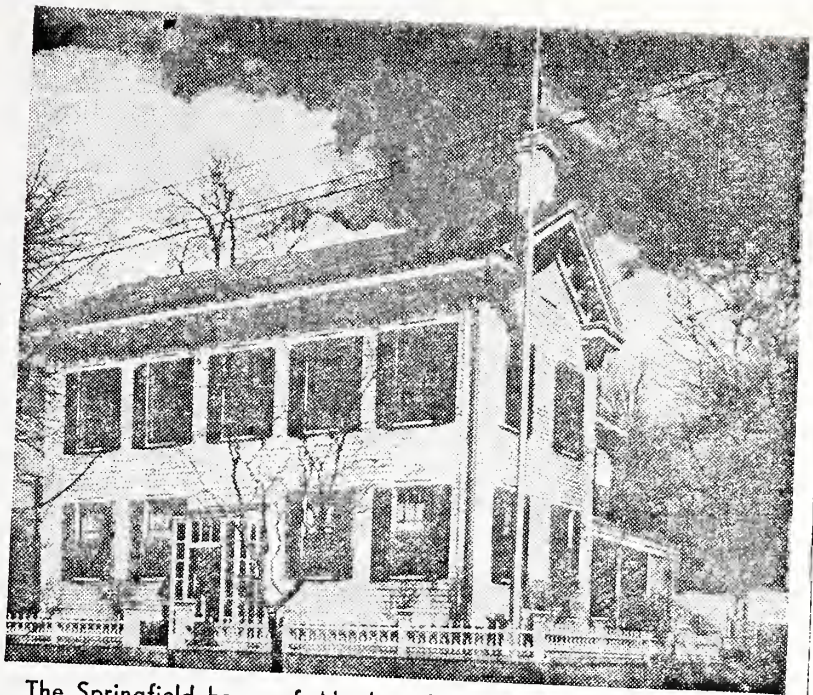
Mrs. Bacon seized Hagan's board and noted: "I believe it's closer to the color of Mr. Hubbs' suit."

"This decision must be final," warned Hubbs.

There was a brief flurry of conversation. Advocates of white finally conceded. The house would be brown, 'quaker brown.'

"Now fir the wallpaper," said Hubbs.

"We will be lucky to get within three shades of the original color," Hagan observed moodily.



The Springfield home of Abraham Lincoln, now closed, which will be painted "Quaker brown" during restoration project.

ENTIRE LINCOLN HOME RESTORED; TO OPEN TODAY

Color Pictures of Rooms on Back Page

BY EDWARD BARRY

Against the most discouraging odds, the project of restoring the Lincoln home at Springfield to its mid-19th century condition has been successfully completed. On this 146th anniversary of the Civil war President's birth the entire house will be opened for the first time.

Color pictures of second floor rooms which have never been seen by the public, as well as of first floor rooms which long have attracted Lincoln students, will be found on the back page.

Furniture Was Problem

The most formidable of the problems which the restorers encountered was the extreme difficulty of reassembling even a sizable fraction of the furniture and other effects which were in the home when the Lincolns lived there.

Much of the original furniture was destroyed in the Chicago fire of 1871. It had been brought here in 1869 by Lucian Tilton, who had rented the home when the Lincolns moved to Washington in 1861 and had purchased some of the furnishings.

What had not been purchased [and lost] by Tilton found its way into various museums and into the collections of private individuals. Little by little, almost piece by piece, many of these furnishings and mementoes were returned to the Lincoln home during the decades following 1887, when Robert Todd Lincoln deeded the house to the State of Illinois.

Documents Studied

However, there simply was not enough of the original furniture in existence to make a complete and accurate restoration of the home possible. Here meticulous scholarship entered the picture. Contemporary documents [books,

diaries, letters, and the like] were scanned for possible references to the appearance of the Lincoln house. Studies were made of the types of decoration and furnishing popular in the middle west a century ago.

The drawings of the interior of the Lincoln home which Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper published in 1861 [when Lincoln had just become the nation's greatest figure] were scrutinized by the restorers for hints as to placement of furniture, design of wallpaper, and the like.

Antique shops were combed for the types of items which research had indicated were to be found in a home like that of the Lincolns during the 1840s and 1850s. These were gradually assembled over the years.

One of U. S. Finest Shrines

Thru these and other devices—all legitimate and all designed only to make the settings more nearly authentic—the restorers have succeeded in creating a home which in its warmth, its inner harmony and appropriateness, and above all in its great and affecting associations is worthy to rank with America's finest historic shrines.

Here are such touching items as Lincoln's soap dish and shaving mirror [the latter meticulously hung at just the right height which a man of such stature would require, chairs and chests and a bed and a curio cabinet and several other items which the Lincolns actually owned, and a great many other furnishings which are proper to the place and the period and which complete the impression that this is no museum but an actual home.

Lincoln Home 17 Years

The Lincolns bought the house in 1844, when it was only five years old. They lived in it continuously until 1861, except for a short period when Lincoln was in Congress.

In this home, some of the future President's greatest addresses were composed, for the 1850s was the decade of the "house divided" speech and the Lincoln-Douglas debates. Mary Todd Lincoln bore three of the couple's four sons here [Robert Todd Lincoln was a baby when they moved in]. These pathetically short lived children [only Robert Todd grew to manhood] scampered and played thru the rooms and hallways of this home. One of them [Edward] died here.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL CENTER ASSOCIATION



Officers

Frank T. Davis PRESIDENT
Dr. C. Robert Fults VICE-PRESIDENT
Herbert Georg VICE-PRESIDENT
Phil Bisch TREASURER
William E. Skadden SECRETARY

A not for profit corporation . . . Brown, Hay and Stephens, Legal Counselors . . . Raymond E. Rickbeil, C.P.A., Auditor

Post Office Box 211 . . . SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

To Members of the Abraham Lincoln Association:

Our first official letter is being directed to the membership of the Abraham Lincoln Association -- because, in our opinion, your association during its years of activity probably did as much as any group in America to preserve, promote, proclaim and perpetuate a better understanding of life, philosophy, and ideals of Abraham Lincoln.

Our organization has been chartered as a non-profit corporation by the Secretary of State of Illinois for the sole purpose of raising at least one million dollars in a nation-wide campaign for funds, to create a Lincoln Memorial Center and public park immediately adjacent to the Lincoln Home. The effort is being made to provide suitable surroundings for the LINCOLN HOME in keeping with its importance as a National Shrine.

The campaign is scheduled to open locally and within the State on February 12, 1955 and will run for a period of one year, closing on Lincoln's birthday in 1956. The year 1956 will mark the 100th anniversary of the remodeling of the Lincoln Home. The funds raised will be earmarked for this project and turned over to the State of Illinois, to build and maintain the Memorial Center and public park, even as Robert Lincoln did in 1887, when he presented the Lincoln Home to the State to be kept in perpetuity and open to the public.

We are enclosing an artist's conception of the possibilities with the site if the fund-raising campaign is entirely successful. IT IS ONLY AN ARTIST'S SKETCH AND WE CAN'T STRESS THAT TOO MUCH. Nothing has been definitely decided, nor will be decided by our Board of Directors. That will be the responsibility of the Division of Parks and Memorials, which has done such a remarkably fine job of restoring and maintaining the Lincoln Home.

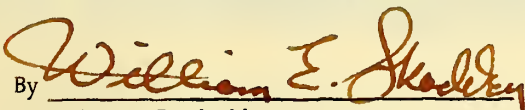
However, we are soliciting suggestions from the membership of the ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION as regards the following committees of our organization. We would appreciate especially suggestions for members of our Historical Committee, to be composed of recognized historians and Lincoln students. They will be asked to make recommendations and suggestions as to any statues, historical replicas, or buildings to be placed in the LINCOLN MEMORIAL CENTER.

Also, we would appreciate suggestions for our Advisory Board, which will be composed of outstanding business and professional persons both in Springfield and throughout the nation. They will advise the Board of Directors on matters concerning plans and promotional activities, the fund-raising campaign and general matters.

We will appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience as to any suggestions for this great project or your personal reaction.

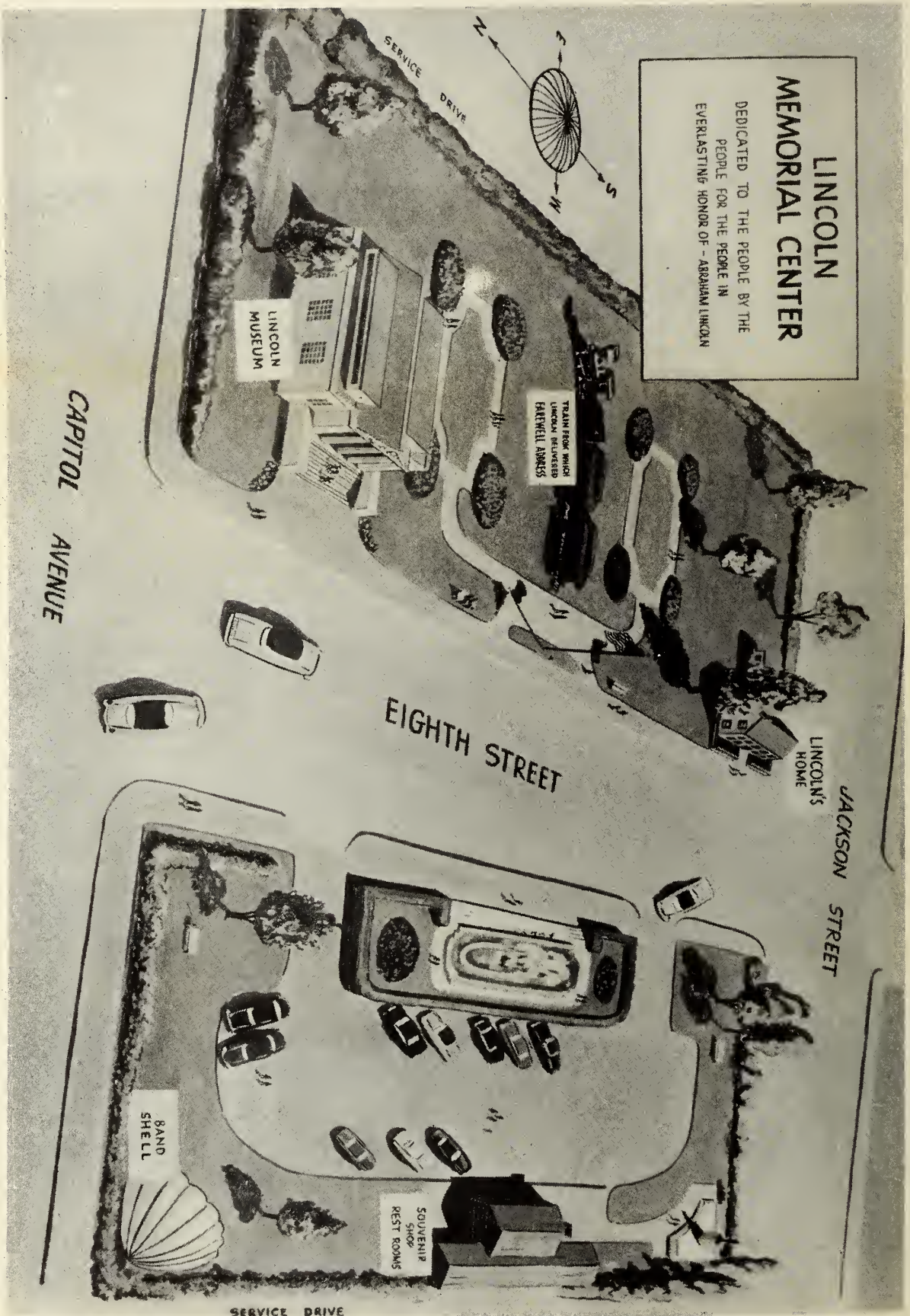
Sincerely,

LINCOLN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

By 
William E. Skadden, Secretary

LINCOLN MEMORIAL CENTER

DEDICATED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE
PEOPLE FOR THE PEOPLE IN
EVERLASTING HONOR OF - ABRAHAM LINCOLN



An artist's conception of a possible plan for the establishment of a park area immediately adjacent to the LINCOLN HOME, to be known as the LINCOLN MEMORIAL CENTER. *** PURPOSE: To create greater interest in LINCOLN'S HOME, HIS LIFE AND IDEALS . . . To develop the area in attractiveness to a point in keeping with its importance as a NATIONAL SHRINE . . . To rescue the ONLY HOME EVER OWNED BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN from the fate predicted by the famous city planner Myron West, "A SITE ADRIFT IN A CITY." *** Any statues, historical replicas or buildings to be placed in the LINCOLN MEMORIAL CENTER will be considered only after approval by the Historical Committee of the Lincoln Memorial Center Association. All suggestions will be judged by it upon such basic factors as: (1) historical accuracy, (2) historical value and appeal, (3) propriety and appropriateness, (4) need and service to all people. *** The Historical Committee will be composed of recognized historians and Lincoln students.

A LINCOLN MUSEUM AT SPRINGFIELD

By DOLORES B. JEFFORDS

IN the minds of a group of Illinois citizens, something must quickly be done to protect the surroundings of the Springfield home of Abraham Lincoln—the only house he ever owned—because the neighborhood where it stands is, in their opinion, seriously deteriorating. Since half a million people visit the home every year, the site not only deserves but demands adequate preservation, these citizens assert.

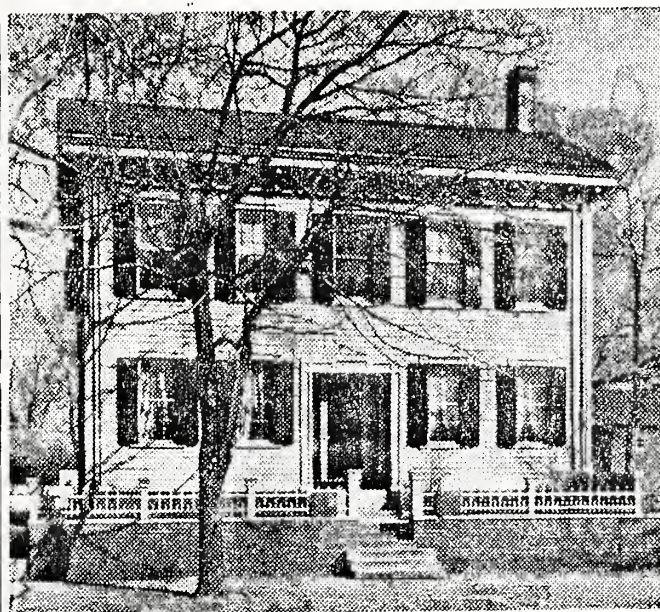
For this purpose, a non-profit Lincoln Memorial Center Association has been formed. The plan put forward is to acquire the properties along both sides of the 500 block of Eighth Street, on one corner of which the Lincoln house stands; and to replace the present cluttered structures with a park-like area which would also have a Lincoln museum and adequate parking space and rest rooms set among landscaped lawns and trees.

The association wants to raise \$1,000,000 for these purposes.

Some Opposition

There is opposition to the proposal in some quarters, based on the argument that such a park would radically alter the scene as Lincoln knew it. Other opponents would prefer the entire block to be restored to its appearance in Lincoln's time. So far there has been no endorsement or opposition by the state of Illinois. Gov. William G. Stratton, however, has assured the association that he would assist in carrying out its plans when the fund it seeks is raised. According to the association, jurisdiction over such a memorial park would be placed in the hands of the Illinois Division of Parks and Memorials which, it is felt, has done an admirable job in maintaining the Lincoln home itself.

To its opponents, spokesmen for the association reply that the neighborhood has already changed radically from what it was when Lincoln knew it. It is now a "declining neighborhood," they say, commercially zoned for all but heavy industry. Gas stations, neon signs, souvenir shops and other small stores, as well as shabby old houses crowd upon the home, and parking meters bristle along the curbs. As to restoring the entire block



Illinois Division of Parks

LINCOLN HOME—Half a million see it yearly.

to its appearance in the Eighteen Forties, this, the association argues, would be not only costlier than their plan, but would not answer the parking problem which the half-million visitors a year now face.

Details of the plan, as now framed, provide for leaving the Lincoln house exactly as it is, at the southeast corner of Eighth Street at Jackson Street. The north corner of the block, on the same side, abuts on Capitol Avenue, and here the proposal is to erect the Lincoln museum, to be filled with historical relics of the President. On the lawns between these structures the association would like to install a replica of the train from whose rear platform Lincoln bade farewell to his Springfield fellow-citizens on departing to be inaugurated in Washington.

Lawns and Trees

Across Eighth Street would be parking space, rest rooms and a band shell, all set amid lawns and trees.

The fund which the association hopes to raise would be turned over to the state, "in the spirit of Robert Lincoln [the President's son], who gave the Lincoln Home to the state in 1887, to be kept in perpetuity, and open to the public without admission fee."

When people now visit the Lincoln home, the association comments, they can judge for

themselves whether the proposed Memorial Center would be an improvement or a profanation.

The Lincoln house was built in 1839, and was originally a story-and-a-half frame cottage, which Lincoln later converted to a full two stories. He bought the house for \$1,500 in 1844 from the Rev. Charles Dresser, who two years earlier had performed the marriage service for him and Mary Todd. In this home all but the eldest of their sons were born, and here their little 4-year-old son "Eddie" died.

Simple Design

Simple in design, the house is strongly constructed of fine hardwoods. The frame and floors are oak, the weatherboarding, doors and doorframes are black walnut. Hand-split hickory supplied the laths, and hand-split walnut the original shingles. Wooden pegs were used in its construction, with strategic but sparing use of hand-made nails. Undoubtedly Lincoln, the woodsman, recognized the value and durability of the lumber used. And somehow, with its unpretentious exterior concealing a wealth of solid worth, the house seems to reflect the qualities of the man who made it his home.

Every effort has been made to refurnish the house as it was when the Lincolns lived in it. Some of the original furniture

has been recovered from museums and private collectors, and missing pieces appropriately duplicated. A few years ago, with the assistance of the Colonial Dames of America, the upstairs rooms and the kitchen were furnished, so that now the entire residence is open to visitors. The house has an old-fashioned, lived-in appearance, such as it must have had through the years when the Lincoln family occupied it.

Lincoln resided in the house until his election to Congress, and later to the Presidency, took him away from Springfield. In his farewell address, on leaving for his inauguration, he spoke these significant words: "To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything * * * I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return."

He left his home rented, as if he hoped some day to go back to Springfield. But only in death did he return, to rest in one of the most beautiful and most visited tombs in the world, with his wife and three of his four children.

Burial Site

Here, in outstanding works of sculpture, in the flags encircling the cenotaph bearing his name, in the carved epitaph uttered by Secretary Stanton, "Now he belongs to the ages," and in the reverent faces of those who visit the place where he lies, the story of Abraham Lincoln, the great President, is eloquently told.

But it is in the sturdy old house at Eighth and Jackson Streets—even amid anachronistic commercial displays—that the life of Lincoln, the man, is enshrined. For these were the streets he walked, exchanging a salutation, or a few friendly words, with neighbors he encountered; these the steps he mounted, the door through which he passed, as he came and went in his daily activities. Here he lived with his wife and children, sharing the daily work, the problems and responsibilities, the joys and sorrows, that are the common lot of men.

Amid the much vaster problems and responsibilities to which he went, his thoughts must often have turned back nostalgically to the home that he had left. Something of his living presence can still be felt within its walls.

Chicago Sunday Times
February 10, 1958

Alarm Guards Lincoln Mementoes

Sun-Times Bureau

SPRINGFIELD — The burglar alarm in the home of Abraham Lincoln often rings several times a day to scare off souvenir hunters.

But the itchy-fingered tour-

ists pick at the wallpaper and even the plaster in the restored home here with no interference from the burglar alarm.

The alarm, however, prevents souvenir seekers making off with small bottles and other

personal items of the Lincoln family.

The alarm is tripped when anyone steps past a railing toward the personal items on display. It is hidden under the rugs.

Barry Tracy, architectural historian, says the Lincoln yard will be restored later this year when plantings of flowers and shrubs of the style current in the 1880s will be made.

Raps Lincoln Home Area Conditions

By Mike Whalen

Mayor Nelson Howarth today criticized conditions in the Lincoln Home area and appealed for community and governmental efforts to better them.

The mayor, in remarks at the City Council executive meeting, complained about the lack of toilet facilities, the need for more parking space, inadequate care of landscaping and, in general, the absence of plans or leaders to insure proper development of the area in the future.

He also noted that Illinois apparently is alone among the nation's states in failing to charge tourists to see its shrines. He indicated he prefers charging a reasonable fee so long as the money is used for preserving and improving areas such as Lincoln's Home.

"We, the community," Howarth said, "have to work out some plan for the future."

Among his suggestions for improving the present conditions was one proposing the city and state form a group to administer the area's affairs and perhaps eventually buy up the land there so Lincoln-era buildings can be preserved and

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)

(Continued from Page 1)

others restored. Somebody, he said, should be empowered to raise money for such a purpose.

Also, he said he thinks the community should spend some money to provide toilet facilities there.

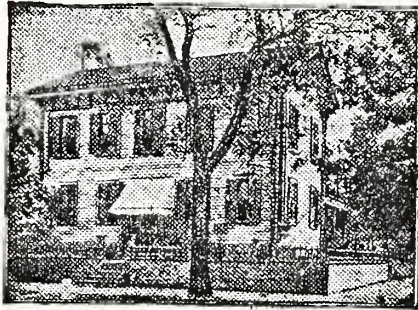
His comments drew no immediate reaction from other council members attending the meeting.

REPAIRING LINCOLN'S OLD HOME

State of Illinois Is Restoring It to Its Original Condition.

More Than Fifty Thousand People Visit It During Every Year.

Tuesday next, Feb. 12, will be the anniversary of the birth of our martyred president, Abraham Lincoln. Every person who reveres his memory—and who in America does not?—will find satisfaction in the knowledge that the state of Illinois has purchased and is now repairing his old home at Eighth and Jackson streets, Springfield, Ill. Twenty-six thousand dollars was appropriated by the Illinois legislature to strengthen the foundation and restore those parts of the building that had begun to give way under the wear and tear of rain and bad weather.



THE OLD HOME OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN AT SPRINGFIELD, ILL., PURCHASED BY THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AND TO BE PUT IN FIRST-CLASS ORDER THIS YEAR.

Care was taken not to make the slightest alteration in the historic structure, as it is the intention of the state to preserve it in its original condition as long as it stands.

The restoration of this house has been watched with anxious interest, and now that the work is practically completed visitors who were friends of the great president declare that it is just as they remember it when Lincoln broke up housekeeping to move to Washington. The house was built in 1840 and was purchased by Mr. Lincoln in 1844, two years after his marriage. He added an extra story to it and furnished it simply.

Here he lived for almost seventeen years and when he turned his back upon it he went out to take charge of the affairs of the nation at its most crucial time. It was on Feb. 11, 1861, that he crossed its threshold for the last time. In restoring the old house the furniture that did service when Mr. Lincoln was a young attorney has been reupholstered and arranged as it was when Mrs. Lincoln kept house in the modest frame dwelling.

The Lincoln home is visited every year by 50,000 persons, who pass with reverent step from one room to another, examining the plain furniture, the books and personal belongings that have gained value because they were the property of the statesman whose simple manhood, as well as his distinguished services, endeared him to the people of the United States.

Albert S. Edwards, a nephew of President Lincoln, is the present custodian of the house. His grandfather, Ninian Edwards, was the only territorial governor of Illinois, one of its first two senators and afterward its governor.

MAKE PARK OF LINCOLN HOME

State Park Commission and Local Park Board Have Plan to Beautify Surroundings

To provide a fit setting for the home of Abraham Lincoln—to put it in surroundings of dignity, beauty and safety, and to make it the terminus of a boulevard leading from the entrance to the State House grounds, where the statue of the greatest of Illinois is to be unveiled this year—is one of the plans for the Centennial.

The frame structure that was the home of Lincoln during the years he worked his way from the status of a country lawyer to the leadership of a great political party and to the highest office in the United States government, is closely surrounded by other frame residences, and a fire in the neighborhood would be a menace to it.

It is proposed to obtain enough of the surrounding property to provide suitable grounds and to do away with the danger from fire. It is said that the building has been threatened by fire three times in the half-century since the death of Lincoln.

Destruction of Lincoln's home would mean a direct financial loss to Illinois and to the city of Springfield, aside from the Centennial value connected with it, advocates of the plan say. The visitors' register in the house shows that approximately 30,000 people visit the place every year, the great majority of them from out of town, many from distant parts of the United States, and from all parts of the world.

Plan Outlined.

The State Board of Art Advisors has recommended the plan for beautifying Lincoln's home and constructing a boulevard between it and the State House. The Springfield park board heartily approves the plan, its members say, and stands ready to help and to contribute toward the expenses to any amount within its means.

The plan has not been put into definite form as yet, tentative suggestions calling for expenditures ranging from \$100,000 to \$500,000.

The Springfield park board has asked the State Board of Art Advisors to send a man to look over the ground and make recommendations and estimates as to costs and ways and means of accomplishment. It is expected that such a survey will be made within a short time, and the proposition put upon a definite working basis.

"Lincoln's home should be fittingly preserved," said President George Pasfield of the park board today. "We have been blamed for our neglect of proper care for the structure."

"While the park board does not feel able to assume the entire responsibility right now of making all the improvements needed, it is unanimously in favor of the plan."

"The home of Washington at Mt. Vernon, the home of Andrew Jackson near Nashville, and homes of other great men are maintained in magnificent style. At Hodgenville, Ky., a magnificent memorial hall has been erected to shelter the log cabin in which it is said that Lincoln was born. The memorial and an endowment fund of \$50,000 were presented to the govern-

ment by the Lincoln Farm Association in 1916.

"Here we have the home in which Lincoln lived for sixteen years, and in which three of his children were born—in which he received the news of his election as President of the United States, and which he left to take up his residence in the executive mansion of the nation. This home, certainly is worthy of preservation."

Just As It Was.

The Lincoln residence has been kept exactly as it was when Lincoln went to Washington in 1861, excepting for the building of a kitchen wing, on the back while it was rented during the absence of the family.

It is a building of twelve rooms, the roof having been raised by Mrs. Lincoln to make it a two-story building about 1845, while Lincoln was away on a political speaking tour. It originally was one and one-half stories high, when built in 1839 by Rev. Charles Dresser, first Episcopal minister in Springfield. It stood then on the outskirts of Springfield, which has grown up around it, so that it now is within a few blocks of the heart of the city.

In 1844, two years after his marriage and a short time after the birth of Robert Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln bought the house from the Rev. Mr. Dresser for \$1,500.

A contract for the sale, in Lincoln's handwriting, bearing the record of that transaction, with the signatures of Rev. Mr. Dresser and of Abraham Lincoln, now is in the possession of Mrs. Katherine Dresser White, wife of Rev. John C. White, 602 South Glenwood avenue. Mrs. White is a granddaughter of Rev. Mr. Dresser, and the historic document was given her by her father, the late Dr. Thomas Dresser, son of Rev. Charles Dresser.

This residence was the only home that Lincoln ever owned. None of the family ever returned to it after the death of Lincoln, Mrs. Lincoln living at the home of her sister, Mrs. Ninian W. Edwards, on South Second street, until her death in 1882.

A few years after his mother's death, Robert Lincoln presented the property to the State of Illinois, with the understanding that it was to be maintained as a memorial.

Mrs. Josephine B. Edwards, the present custodian of the Lincoln home, has lived in the house for the last twenty years, and has been custodian since the death of her husband, Albert S. Edwards, who was a nephew of Mrs. Lincoln.

Valuable Collection There.

The Edwards family has accumulated a valuable and interesting collection of relics associated with the life of Lincoln. An old-fashioned combination desk and book case from Lincoln's law office, the massive old "settee" from the Edwards home, upon which Lincoln is said to have wooed his bride, the table cloth which bore their wedding feast, and innumerable smaller objects, some of them with equally as interesting associations, are included in the collection now in the home.

The most interesting fact about the construction of the building is the prodigal use of walnut and oak lumber and the economic use of nails, wooden pegs being used wherever practicable instead of the hand-made nails. The interior, as well as the exterior of the house, remains as Lincoln left it, old-fashioned folding doors between the living rooms down stairs and the stairway with its gracefully curved railing of slender construction, leading to the bed rooms of members of the family and guest rooms above.

The building was reproduced as the Illinois building at the Lewis and Clark Centennial exposition at Portland, Oregon, in 1905, and proved one of the most popular centers of attraction there. It was awarded a gold medal by the authorities of the exposition.

DIGGERS ON TRAIL OF A PRIVY AT ABE LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD HOME

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., (AP)—State archaeologists are digging up the backyard of Abraham Lincoln's home, trying to learn where three outbuildings stood when the Civil War President resided here.

If the original sites of a carriage house, a woodshed and a privy are found, the state may erect duplicates to complete the historic shrine.

Lincoln lived at the home from 1846 to 1861.

The diggers are led by Richard Hagen of Chicago, archaeologist of the state department of architecture.

An old insurance policy issued to Lincoln for the woodshed and the carriage house describes their locations and guides the excavators. Photos show portions of the structures and indicate they were of white painted wood.

So far Hagen and his helpers have unearthed a low brick wall. But it is mortared and Hagen says walls in Lincoln's time were of bricks merely laid in place.

Present to America

Lincoln's Illinois Home Restored:

By NEA SERVICE

Five years of work — and a cost of some \$60,000 — have advanced enough to permit a formal opening on Feb. 12, the 145th anniversary of the Great Emancipator's home that he departed in 1861 to be in Washington and it was from here—that he was buried, in 1865. The formal opening will mark the upper floor has been opened to the public.

Work remains—completion of the kitchen, with the one Mary Todd Lincoln cooked on. The stove is in the Ford Museum, in Washington. It will be restored, too, with various out-let and cistern pumps.

The work has progressed under the expert direction of Richard Hagen, historical consultant to the Illinois Parks and Memorial Division. The state bears the cost, but there have been valuable contributions from various sources. For instance, the Illinois chapter of the Colonial Dames of America took charge of having reproduced exactly the antique wallpaper that originally decorated the rooms.

They also bought, for \$1000, the original clock the Lincolns once owned and helped search out other Lincoln furniture. Old Springfield families made contributions of furniture, clothing and pictures of the Lincoln era.

Among them were the descendants of Springfield's Jacob Bunn, a pallbearer at Lincoln's funeral. The restoration not only brings back the interior appearance as Lincoln knew it, but actually has made the house a much sturdier structure than it was in his day.

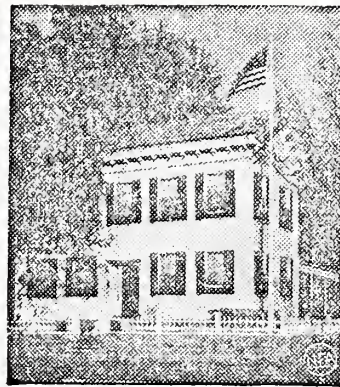
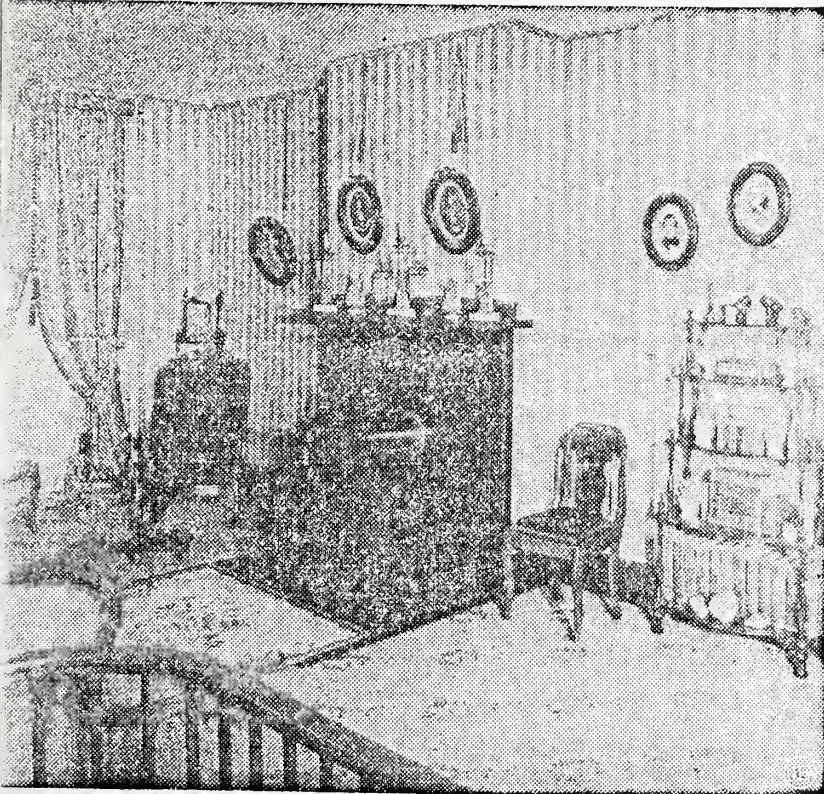
\$60,000 Spent to Re-

Structure as Abe Knew It

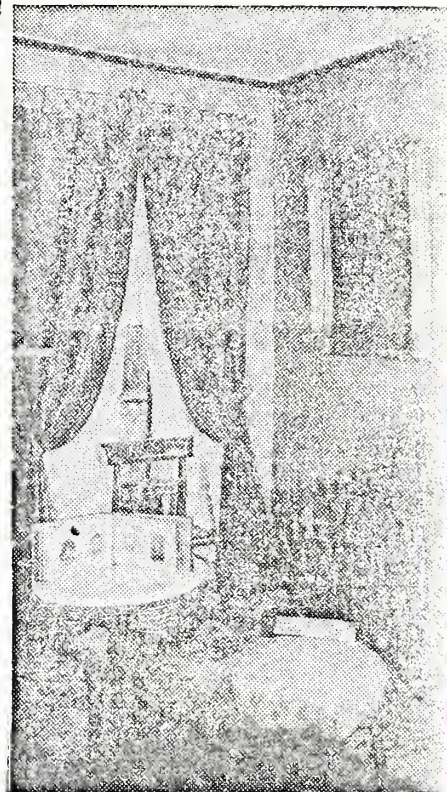
Steel beams have replaced some of the wooden ones. The chimney was dismantled, proofed, and it was then rebuilt. The exterior was the original Quaker tan. Flooring was laid in anticipation of throngs of sightseers. A ventilating system was installed.

On the inside, in addition to the reproduction of the wallpaper, the Lincoln drapes were reproduced. Real antique lace curtains were used. Wherever possible, original Lincoln necessities were used. But much of the original have been destroyed or are owned by private owners.

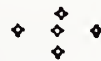
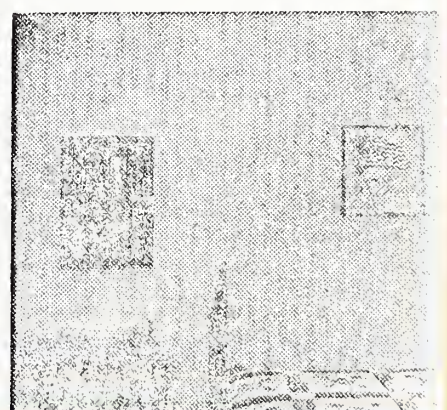
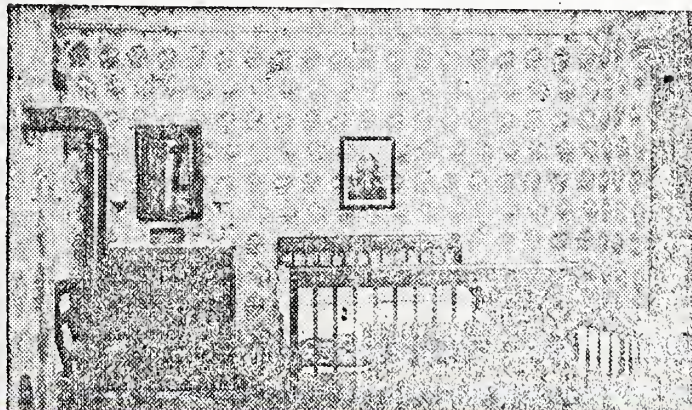
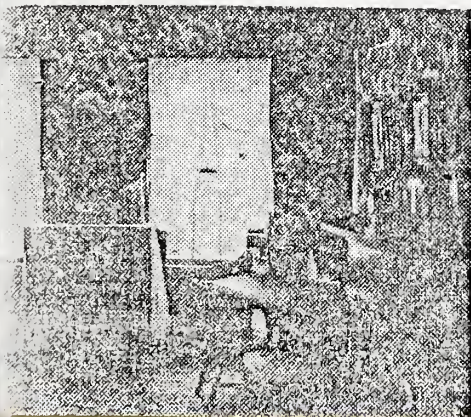
In such cases, items as nearly like the originals as possible have been searched out in antique shops. In this year and the future, the Lincoln home is expected to be even more of a museum than it was in the past, when it was visited by more than 400,000 a year.



HOW IT LOOKS—This is the restored Lincoln home in Springfield, Ill. Built in 1839, it and the 50x152-foot lot were bought by Lincoln on May 2, 1844. Originally a story-and-a-half cottage, Mrs. Lincoln had it converted to two full stories in 1856.



ANOTHER CORNER of the front parlor from the house of Mrs. Ninian W. Lincoln's sister, where the Lincolns' furniture is of early Victorian style.



PARLOR—It was here that, on May 19, 1860, a committee from the National Convention in Chicago, notified "Honest Abe" of his nominal candidacy. Portraits over mantelpiece are of George and Martha Lincoln.

